

U.S. Application Serial No.: 10/666,564
Amendment After Final Office Action Dated April 17, 2006
In Response to Final Office Action Dated January 17, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are in this application. Claims 12-27 and claims 28-33 had been withdrawn for being directed to non-elected invention. Claims 2-12 had been withdrawn for being directed to non-elected species.

Previously withdrawn claims 3, 4, 13-33 have now been canceled. Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled and their contents have been introduced into claim 1 and previously withdrawn species claims 7-12.

Claim 1, as amended, is generic to claims 2-12. Accordingly, if amended claim 1 is found to be allowable, then claims 2 and 5-12 should be rejoined with claim 1 and be also allowed.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by: (1) Grill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,413,852); (2) Grill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,737,725); or (3) Cotte et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,346,486).

Independent claims 1 and 7-12, as amended, and the claims depending directly or indirectly therefrom, define an interconnect structure wherein:

- (1) the regions of robust support dielectric form an array of pillars; and
- (2) the regions of robust support dielectric form support beams that lie below the interconnect lines and encase at least one of the conducting via.

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Regions of robust line support dielectric forming an array of pillars and forming support beams that lie below the interconnect lines and encase at least one of the conducting via are not taught or suggested by any of the cited art. These features are not taught or suggested by either Grill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,413,852), Grill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,737,725) or Cotte et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,346,486).

Thus, none of the cited art teaches or suggests the structures defined by amended claims 1 and 7-12. Therefore, claims 1 and 7-12, and the claims depending directly or indirectly therefrom, are not anticipated by the cited art and, as such, are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reexamination of this application and allowance of the pending claims, namely claims 1, 2, 5-12.

Respectfully submitted,

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